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# Los Angeles County Commission on Disabilities

*Celebrating 30 Years of Leadership & Advocacy*



## **MINUTES OF THE LOS ANGELES COUNTY COMMISSION ON DISABILITIES**

The regular meeting of the Los Angeles County Commission on Disabilities was held on Wednesday, May 17, 2006, at Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration, Room 140, 500 West Temple Street, Los Angeles.

### **CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order by Chair Neal at 1:21 p.m.

Introductions of Commissioners, Staff and audience members followed.

### **APPROVAL OF THE APRIL 19, 2006 MINUTES**

On motion of Commissioner Siegel, seconded by Commissioner Krzyzanowski, and duly carried (Commissioner Weller abstained), the minutes of April 19, 2006 were approved.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

- Linda Block spoke about the Deficit Reduction Act.
- Osby Sangster shared her concerns about unfair treatment and poor legal representation from non-profit legal organizations on a case she has pending with the Department of Rehabilitation.
- Hugh Hallenberg spoke about how proposed changes to the IHSS Quality Assurance Program may adversely affect the quality of the care homecare workers provide for recipients of the program.
- Mary Shuttleworth, Youth for Human Rights International, distributed a pamphlet and DVD about this organization which works to develop material to teach young people about the purpose of the United Nations and basic human rights. Ms. Shuttleworth proposed that the Commission and other community groups work together to promote and disseminate information about the organization.

### **CHAIR'S REPORT**

- **Appointment of the Nominating Committee for 2006-2007 Officers**

Following discussion, on motion of Commissioner Siegel, seconded by Commissioner Weller and unanimously carried, the Commission voted to suspend the formation of a Nominating Committee this year, and will instead, accept the Declaration of Candidacy forms at the meeting when the election occurs.

- **Review of Public Participation at Commission meetings**

Chair Neal requested that a representative from County Counsel be invited to the next Commission meeting to give a presentation on the Ralph Brown Act.

- **Re-Appointment of Teddie Joy -Remhild as the Commission's representative on the ASI Board of Directors**

On motion of Commissioner Gureckas, seconded by Commissioner Weller and unanimously carried, the Commission voted to re-appoint Ms. Remhild to serve as the Commission's liaison on the ASI Board of Directors for another term.

### **CHAIR'S REPORT (cont.)**

- Chair Neal shared with the Commission a plaque she received from "Ahead With Horses", an organization which provides developmental therapy for children with disabilities through interaction with horses and related experiences.
- The Commission has been asked to join in efforts to support the installation of an accessible front entry door to the Griffith Park Observatory. The Observatory currently has an accessible entrance which is located in the rear of the facility.

### **STAFF REPORT**

Staff reported the following:

- The 2006 Abilities Expo is being held at the Anaheim Convention Center, June 16, 17 and 18<sup>th</sup>.
- The Commission on Disabilities website is nearing completion and should be up and running next month. The Commission will have the capability to solicit and accept donations on the site for the Trust Fund.
- The Commission has been invited to attend the upcoming Commissioner's Conference sponsored by the Quality and Productivity Commission on May 25<sup>th</sup> at the Music Center's Dorothy Chandler Pavilion. The topic of the conference will be "County of Los Angeles' Response to Homeland Security".

## **REVIEW OF MISSION STATEMENT**

This item was deferred to the June agenda.

## **UPDATE ON QUALITY ASSURANCE PROGRAM**

Teddie Joy-Remhild gave an update on the progress of the assessment and development of the regulations for IHSS' Quality Assurance Program.

Ms. Remhild stated that consumer groups and state representatives have been working together for over a year to assess the current guidelines and regulations for personal care tasks in the State of California. Several working groups have been formed to review the program's current structure and develop a set of guidelines that are equitable, consistent, and do not diminish the quality of the care homecare workers provide to their clients.

The main focus of the various groups is to propose guidelines that ensure the unique needs of each individual are being met so that they can be safe, healthy, and maintain some independence.

Other areas being reviewed include the Functional Index Ranking for recipients, the California Case Management Information and Payrolling System, and the Exception Criteria. The implementation date for the revised guidelines is schedule for August 30, 2006.

## **DISABILITIES CIVIL RIGHTS COMPLIANCE SECTION (DCRCS)**

In the absence of the ADA Compliance Officer, Commissioner Krzyzanowski reported that he has been selected as one of three people from the Department of Mental Health appointed to serve as a County ADA Coordinator. The ADA Coordinators recently met and developed strategies for centralization and collaboration on compliance issues and concerns throughout the county.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **A. Public Relations Committee**

Commissioner Krzyzanowski reported the following:

- The Committee met today and discussed its mission and future direction.
- He attended the "City Commission on Disabilities' Emergency Preparedness for People with Disabilities Public Hearing on April 27<sup>th</sup>.
- He attended the "27<sup>th</sup> Annual Very Special Arts Festival" on May 3<sup>rd</sup> which featured the artistry, theatrical talents, and performances of young people with disabilities.

- The next meeting of the Public Relations Committee is scheduled for June 21, 2006.

Commissioner Hamilton thanked everyone for their support of his play, "There's Help In Gimp City", and stated that the performances have been well attended and received very positive reviews and press. Plans are underway to extend the run of the play.

1. **Update on Community Forum Radio Program**

- Chair Neal reported that the radio program has been doing very well, and has had excellent community participation and response.

2. **Update on 2006 Access Awards Luncheon**

- Staff reported that the Tainter Scholarship Program notices have been sent to high schools in the Los Angeles Unified School District as well as other outlying school districts.
- To date, no responses have been received from the announcement seeking a fundraiser for the 2006 Access Awards Luncheon. Following discussion, Commissioners agreed to continue to seek out a professional fundraiser for the event.
- The Luncheon will be held in the 5<sup>th</sup> Floor Ballroom of the Dorothy Chandler Pavilion on October 18<sup>th</sup>.

**B. Transportation Committee**

**ASI Report**

Jess Segovia reported that ASI is currently considering making changes to its services delivery in several areas. One area being considered is night fare service for trips that occur from 9:00 p.m. to 5:00 a.m. Three options are being considered: 1) increase the fare to \$3.50; 2) decrease the fare to \$1.50; 3) charge twice as much for night fare service depending on the rate set by the MTA trip planning software on ASI's website; and 4) to decrease the fare to \$1.10.

Public Hearings have been held in various communities to review the proposed revisions to the plan. ASI users, the Community Advisory Committee, the Transportation Professionals Advisory Committee, and other interested parties, have been in attendance to express their opinions and offer their input and comments. Another series of community meetings have been scheduled before ASI makes its final decision sometime in June or July.

Mr. Segovia also reported that ASI is currently accepting input from consumers about the Notice of Proposed Rulemaking from the Federal Transit Administration on possible changes that will affect wheelchair or mobility device capacity issues in ASI vehicles.

### **MTA Update**

Chip Hazen reported the following:

- To address the pathway obstruction problems that have been occurring at the North Hollywood Metro Red Line Station, MTA is currently posting warning signs, painting blue stripes on the sidewalks, tagging bicycles, and citing motorcyclists, to discourage further obstruction of the pathways for wheelchair users or people with mobility impairments.
- Automatic Vehicle Enunciator Systems are being piloted on MTA buses.
- The Gold Line is being extended from East Los Angeles to Atlantic Avenue
- Construction of the Exposition line which will run out to Culver City is underway. The second phase will run to Santa Monica, and the third phase will connect to the Green Line.

### **ITEMS NOT ON THE POSTED AGENDA**

- Discussion of Legal Service referrals

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- Commissioner Weller announced that "People First of California" have appointed her their representative for Area 10.
- John Longoria announced: "Disability Action Day" is being held June 1, 2006, which brings together people with disabilities and advocates to stage an educational forum, march and rally on the steps of the Capitol for disability rights; The Disability Rights Legal Center is sponsoring a free training June 14<sup>th</sup> on Fair Housing Accessibility; and October 18<sup>th</sup> is National Disability Mentoring Day in Los Angeles County.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:15 p.m.

## **ATTENDANCE**

### **Present**

Janet Neal, Chair  
Harley Rubenstein, Vice Chair  
Bernard Siegel, Treasurer  
Michael G. Gureckas  
Ernest T. Hamilton Jr.  
Richard Krzyzanowski  
Alexia Teran

### **Excused Absent**

Ruth Ann Acosta  
Wendy Welt  
John B. Troost  
Sheila Wright

### **Board of Supervisors**

Sandra Barbee  
Dedie Ward

### **ASI**

Jess Segovia  
Teddie Joy-Remhild

### **MTA**

Chip Hazen

### **Guests**

Gary Barnett  
Linda Block  
Rone Ellis  
Carlton Lindo  
Marvin White  
In-Young Choe  
Christine Marge  
Donna Pomerantz  
Roxy Ortiz  
Osbee Sangster  
Valerie Chat  
Mary Shuttleworth  
John Longoria